

Serial No.: 10/626,555

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~sub-calibre~~sub-caliber projectile comprising:

a sub-caliber penetrator dimensioned to have a caliber less than the caliber of a barrel for firing the penetrator, said penetrator having a lengthwise central axis;

a ~~calibred sabot formed of~~sabot dimensioned to have a caliber substantially equal to said barrel caliber and comprising at least two segments and surrounding a ~~sub-calibred~~said sub-caliber penetrator, wherein: ~~to be fired in a barrel, characterized in that~~

said sabot ~~incorporates~~ comprises at least three substantially ~~calibred~~ support seats, then having said barrel caliber and including a forward support seat, a median support seat and a rear support seat seats, axially spaced from one another along said lengthwise axis, and

said forward support seat comprises a profile for causing separation of said at least two segments from the sabot upon exiting a barrel.

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2. (Currently Amended) A The projectile according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the axial distance between said two supports being the furthest apart is greater than or equal to 3 calibers not less than three times the barrel caliber.

3. (Currently Amended) A The projectile according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a band, wherein a median of said at least one support seats, ~~called median support seat, is formed by~~ comprises a push plate (PP) ~~incorporating having at least one groove to receive a~~ said band, and said push plate axially median support seat is located axially between said two other support seats.

4. (Currently Amended) A The projectile according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said push plate (PP) ~~is positioned at a~~ an axial distance from a median transverse plane (PM), said plane being orthogonal to said penetrator and passing through the center of gravity of said projectile, said distance being between 0.5 and 1.5 ~~caliber~~ times the barrel caliber.

5. (Currently Amended) A The projectile according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said forward support seat is ~~constituted by~~comprises radial arms evenly spaced ~~angularly~~spaced around the axis of said sabot.

6. (Currently Amended) A The projectile according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each said arm carries ~~comprises~~a foot of comprising a plastic material ~~at its end~~for ensuring the guidance of said sabot in ~~said~~a barrel.

7. (Currently Amended) A The projectile according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said rear support seat is ~~constituted by~~comprises radial studs, evenly spaced ~~angularly~~spaced around said sabot.

8. (Currently Amended) A The projectile according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein each said radial stud is integral with a segment of said sabot.

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9. (Withdrawn) A projectile according to Claim 7, characterized in that each said radial stud formed by the juxtaposition of two parts, each integral with a separate segment of said sabot.

10. (Withdrawn) A projectile according to Claim 9, characterized in that each said radial stud carries a foot of a friction resistant material, for example steel, ensuring the guidance of said sabot in said barrel.